

In general the presentation is very clear, but Figures 8 and 9 could well be replaced by better examples in future editions. The book can be particularly recommended to student nurses and nurses starting work in a V.D. clinic.

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Dermatology and Venereology (Dermatologie und Venereologie). By A. GREITHER. 1972. Pp. 212, 82 figs. Heidelberger Taschenbucher, Basistext Medizin, Vol. 113. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, and New York (DM 14.80).

This volume is one of the series of German 'pocket-books' within the framework of basic medicine and, as one would expect from such distinguished publishers, it is excellently produced in format and print. The author has found as a teacher that what the student in this field needs is not a pictorial atlas with captions but rather a basic text characterizing the morphological elements which make up the different skin diseases. This is done well and is amplified by simple line drawings. Individual dermatoses are briefly described with a variable amount of information on differential diagnosis and treatment. Sometimes the conditions entering into the differential diagnosis are briefly typified; elsewhere there is only a string of names which is less helpful. Treatment is occasionally idiosyncratically dealt with; thus in herpes zoster, whilst rightly warning against the use of corticosteroids, the author recommends only analgesics and vitamin B₁₂ without mentioning the use of virostatic

agents or the dreaded post-zoster neuritis and its potential prevention. Or again, condyloma acuminatum is described but not its treatment. Not all the common skin diseases find a space; thus pityriasis rosea is missing. The dermatological section is nevertheless a useful, concise account for the student and non-specialist and is especially strong on morphological aspects, a subject which has a strong tradition in the German literature.

Undoubtedly the weakest part is the section on venereology—a mere 14 pages—which deals with syphilis and briefly with gonorrhoea and the exotic trisome chancroid, LGV, and granuloma inguinale. NSU, which must surely be as common in Germany as elsewhere, Reiter's disease, and balanitis (except the rare balanitis xerotica obliterans), and most of the specific and non-specific types of *ulceration* are either not mentioned or dismissed in a line or two in the dermatological section. This underlines the fact that it is still the practice on the Continent of Europe to deal with sexually transmitted conditions as a minor side-line of dermatology, and the student or general practitioner reading this book will be left quite unprepared to deal with the bulk of these diseases. The sooner this approach is abandoned and it is recognized that the link between dermatology and venereology is now mainly a historical one, the better will it be for the very large number of patients with venereal diseases. It is possible that this change will come about because of the sheer weight in numbers of these seeking advice for sexually transmitted diseases, and because of the increasing scope, sophistication, and extent of the specialty of venereology as we know it in the United Kingdom.

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